GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:468
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
ILLEGAL ROUTING OF LONG DISTANCE CALLS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the private operators have been nabbed for illegally routing national long distance calls in violation of their licence and interconnect agreement with the BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against such private operators?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 468 FOR 23RD APRIL, 2003 REGARDING ILLEGAL ROUTING OF LONG DISTANCE CALLS.

(a) to (c): M/s World Callnet (Cleartel as brand name) was advertising and selling the pre-paid Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD)/International Subscriber dialling (ISD) cards to telephone customers in the garb of Virtual Calling Card (VCC). The STD/ISD calls made from MTNL/BSNL customers were being routed through the telephone lines obtained by Cleartel from M/s Bharti Telenet Limited. Thus the STD/ISD calls originated by MTNL/BSNL customers using these pre-paid cards were being converted into the originating calls of Bharti Telenet LTd. by such an arrangement and MTNL/BSNL were deprived of their legitimate revenues for the STD/ISD calls. The matter was reported to Police. One person was arrested and illegal operation stopped. No case in respect of any other private operator has come to the notice of the Government.

Further, 54 cases have been detected since 1.1.2002 relating to bypassing of international long distance network. Action has been taken by lodging complaints relating to these offences with the local police. The city-wise break up is as follows:-

New Delhi	23
Kolkata	05
Bangalore	03
Mumbai	09
Chennai	10
Trichy	01
Chandigarh	01
Jaipur	01
Ludhiana	01

The Government takes suitable action including raids with the help of C.B.I./Police for stopping illegal routing of national and international traffic.